

Message Text

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01689 131109Z

17
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SY-05 OPR-02 OMB-01

/085 W
----- 029134

P R 130931Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8845
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1689

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJECT: TONGA MANAGEMENT FIRES 17 MORE NEWSMEN; OTHER NEWSMEN
JOIN PROTESTS

REF SEOUL 1605 SEOUL 1635

1. TONGA ILBO MANAGEMENT FIRED SEVENTEEN ADDITIONAL JOURNALISTS MARCH 12, BRINGING TOTAL NUMBER TONGA NEWSMEN FIRED THIS WEEK TO 37. IN MEANTIME UNDETERMINED NUMBER TONGA REPORTERS CONTINUE SIT-IN AT COMPANY'S MAIN OFFICE. FELLOW JOURNALISTS AT SINA ILBO AND CHOSUN ILBO REPORTEDLY HAVE CONTRIBUTED MONEY TO TONGA STRIKERS AS TOKEN OF SUPPORT. VERY POPULAR POLITICAL CARTOONIST, KIM SUNG HWAN (CREATOR OF UNCLE KO BAU) HAS JOINED FELLOW TONGA NEWSMEN IN STRIKE ACTION.

2. MARCH 12 EDITION TONGA ILBO FINALLY APPEARED SIX HOURS LATE WITH HALF USAL NUMBER OF PAGES. MANAGEMENT REPORTEDLY COMPLETED MAKE-UP AND PRINTING AT CHOSUN ILBO PLANT WHERE REPORTERS ALSO ON STRIKE BUT WHERE FACILITIES STILL UNDER MANAGEMENT DIRECT CONTROL.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01689 131109Z

3. ON MARCH 13, OVER ONE HUNDRED REPORTERS AT CHUNGANG ILBO AND TONGYANG RADIO (AFFILIATED WITH CHUNGANG) GATHERED IN CHUNGANG CITY ROOM AND WROTE RESOLUTIONS CONDEMNING MASS "LAYOFFS" OF NEWSMEN AT TONGA AND

CHOSUN ILBO, ASKING FOR RESTORATION OF KJA JOURNAL WHICH GOVERNMENT JUST ORDERED TO CEASE PUBLISHING (REFTELS), AND CALLING MANagements' ACTIONS "GRAVE THREAT TO FREEDOM OF PRESS" IN KOREA.

4. ACCORDING TO LOCAL NEWSMEN AT THE SCENE AT 2:00 PM THIS AFTERNOON 500 REPRESENTATIVES OF NEWSPAPER, WIRE SERVICE, RADIO AND TV NEWS-GATHERING STAFFS MET AT PRESS CENTER OPPOSITE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING FOR ONE AND ONE HALF HOUR MEETING DURING WHICH THEY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE "FOR THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS". COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF EIGHT MEMBERS DRAWN FROM TONGA, CHOSUN, KJA AND TWO OTHER JOURNALISTS, AFFILIATION UNKNOWN. ALSO RESOLVED TO SUPPORT CHOSUN AND TONGA STRIKERS FINANCIALLY AND THROUGH CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD AND OTHER NECESSITIES. MEETING ALSO PASSED THREE OTHER RESOLUTIONS, ONE DIRECTED TO GENERAL PUBLIC, SECOND TO PUBLISHERS AND THIRD TO GOVERNMENT. RESOLUTION DIRECTED TO PUBLISHERS CALLED FOR AN END TO "PRESSURE" ON REPORTERS. THAT ADDRESSED TO GOVERNMENT STATED PRESS WAS CRITIC BUT NOT ENEMY OF GOVERNMENT AND ASKED GOVERNMENT TO STOP PRESSURE ON PRESS. SAME SOURCE REPORTS POLICE PRESENT AT PRESS CENTER BUILDING.

5. COMMENT: PRESS SITUATION HAS TAKEN A TURN WHICH ROKG HAS NOT PROMOTED, AS FAR AS WE NOW KNOW, AND WHICH IT DOES NOT WELCOME. NOT CLEAR YET WHAT STEPS, IF ANY GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO END THESE CONFRONTATIONS WHICH, WHILE THEY PARTIALLY INVOLVE PRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESS, ARE ALSO THE RESULT OF WORKING PRESS COMPLAINTS AGAINST MANAGEMENT AND VICE VERSA. SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE TO END THESE CONFRONTATIONS WHICH, WHILE THEY PARTIALLY INVOLVE PRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD PRESS, ARE ALSO THE RESULT OF WORKING PRESS COMPLAINTS AGAINST MANAGEMENT AND VICE VERSA. SNEIDER

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, JOURNALISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL01689
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750087-1112
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750399/baaaauex.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, TONGA ILBO
To: STATE INFO TOKYO
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006